

**To:** Popovic, Tanja (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)[txp1@cdc.gov]  
**From:** Garvin, Shawn  
**Sent:** Wed 2/5/2014 4:39:49 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Coordinating on the WV visit

Thank you.

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**From:** Popovic, Tanja (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH) <txp1@cdc.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:02:54 PM  
**To:** Garvin, Shawn  
**Cc:** Popovic, Tanja (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)  
**Subject:** FW: Coordinating on the WV visit

Sorry for a delay – here is our statement.

Tanja

### **CDC/ATSDR Statement**

CDC/ATSDR has been supporting West Virginia since being contacted January 9<sup>th</sup>. On the evening of January 9<sup>th</sup>, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources contacted CDC/ATSDR about the release and requested assistance to review water sampling data and provide a drinking water screening level for MCHM. In response to this urgent situation, a screening level of 1ppm was recommended. This screening level was later confirmed by an interagency Federal workgroup.

Emergency response begins at the local level. As such, the State of West Virginia is the lead for the response to the chemical spill into Elk River. It is CDC/ATSDR's role to serve as an advisor to the State when they are challenged with an emergency situation. When local and state authorities request assistance, CDC/ATSDR responds to and supports national, state, and local partners to save lives and protect health. This includes providing scientific and logistical expertise, and deploying specialized personnel and critical medical assets to the site of an emergency. CDC/ATSDR also helps these partners recover and restore public health functions after the initial response.

CDC/ATSDR has provided the State 24 hour/7 days a week subject matter expertise. CDC/ATSDR Region 3 staff has been available to respond to State and other Federal Agency request since the first day of the event providing technical support. CDC/ATSDR quickly identified a senior level coordinator to offer 24 hour/7 days a week consultation to State and other critical stakeholders.

At the request of the State, CDC/ATSDR sent a three member Epi-Aid team to the West Virginia on January 16 through January 31st to review medical records to better understand the health impact of the spill and to assist with disaster epidemiology related activities.

CDC/ATSDR worked directly with the Governor's Office and the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health on development and release of public health information to the impacted community about their water. On January 17<sup>th</sup>, CDC/ATSDR posted to its website information regarding: MCHM, information regarding screening levels, and emerging issues such as PPH, as well as link to additional resources such as the West Virginia Governor's State Emergency Updates.

In response to a request from FEMA, on January 17<sup>th</sup>, CDC/ATSDR deployed an environmental health scientist to provide technical support and guidance on health impacts to West Virginia.

It is encouraging at this point that the water levels are well below the screening level. CDC will continue to work the State of West Virginia and other Federal Agencies to support the State as needed and to provide public health information.